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This document consists of 1 pages and is number 1 of 3 copies, series A, and the following — attachs

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September 30, 1957

Dear Stu:

We have made some calculations regarding the immediate solution to your high altitude task as outlined in your letter of May 1, 1957.

Although the battery cost is high, it appears feasible to design an electrically propelled vehicle capable of traveling 110 miles at a speed of 27 mph, operating at an altitude of 60,000 feet. Vehicle volume would be approximately 1/2 million cubic feet and could carry a 100 pound payload. Energy would come from 470 pounds of silver cell batteries at a cost of approximately $4,000. Recovery would permit reuse of the batteries. These figures are based on a conventional shape with two 3 H.P. motors mounted on the airship equator. Modulation of the thrust would control direction and conventional fins would provide stabilization. Dual ballonets would control altitude. Low altitude powered flight is not anticipated.

Considerable reduction in the energy requirement, as well as configuration refinement, will result from the program outlined in the proposal now in your hands. The above scheme is mentioned at this time only as a means to accomplish said task now, if the situation demands it. It would roughly be five times the size of the attached photo.

Very truly yours,

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Geophysics Section

Enclosure

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